It is now widely accepted that arterial load is comprised of both the steady (i.e. Systemic Vascular Resistance) and the pulsatile (i.e. systemic arterial compliance) components of arterial elastance.

Reduction in compliance increases arterial load because of reduced arterial buffering.

**Arterial elastance = Systolic pressure/stroke volume**

The contribution of compliance to arterial elastance is approximately one-third that of systemic vascular resistances (adjusted for cardiac cycle length).